

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
 Washington, D.C.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of

GUAM PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Petition for Declaratory Ruling
 concerning Sections 3(37) and 251(h)
 of the Communications Act

CCB Pol. 96-18

Treatment of the Guam Telephone
 Authority and Similarly Situated
 Carriers as Incumbent Local Exchange
 Carriers under Section 251(h)(2)
 of the Commission Act
 of a New Study Area

CC Docket No. 97-134

REPLY COMMENTS
OF
GUAM TELEPHONE AUTHORITY

Guam Telephone Authority ("GTA"), by its attorneys, hereby submits its reply comments in the above-captioned matter.¹ This proceeding has been instituted to gain comment on the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") tentative conclusion that, pursuant to section 251(h)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended ("Act"), GTA should be treated as an incumbent local exchange carrier ("ILEC").

Only three parties filed comment in this proceeding and all are in substantive agreement that the Commission should adopt its tentative conclusion treating GTA as

¹ Guam Public Utilities Commission, Petition for Declaratory Ruling and Treatment of Guam Telephone Authority and Similarly Situated Carriers as Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers under Section 251(h)(2) of the Communications Act, CCB Pol 96-18 and CC Docket No. 97-134, FCC 97-171, rel. May 19, 1997 ("NPRM").

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an ILEC for purposes of Section 251 of the Act. Therefore, the Commission should move forward with a final rule without delay.

In doing so, however, the Commission should not rely upon the Comments filed by Guam Cable Telecommunications, Inc. ("GCT"), except as to outcome. These Comments consist, often by innuendo, of gratuitous attacks upon the management and staff of GTA, the Guam Public Utilities Commission, and, by implication, the Guam Legislature. For the most part the Comments are inaccurate, misleading or irrelevant. The Commission can judge the intemperate nature of the filing merely by reference to the "slams" at the PUC. There is no reason in the context of this rulemaking to disparage the Guam PUC.

Rather than specifically answer the charges raised directly or indirectly in GCT's pleading and, by doing so, prolong this proceeding, GTA simply requests that the Commission issue a ruling declaring that GTA should be treated as an ILEC.

Respectfully submitted,

GUAM TELEPHONE AUTHORITY



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July 28, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Susanne M. Gyldenvand, do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Reply Comments of the Guam Telephone Authority, was sent by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, or by hand delivery or facsimile where indicated by an asterisk (*), this 28th day of July, 1997 to the following:

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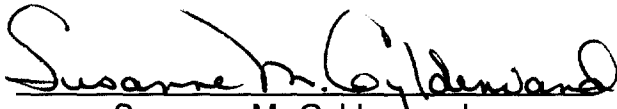
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